

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 27, 2005. Claims 1 and 4 to 8 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that Figure 6 of the present application shows only that which is old, and has required Figure 6 to be labeled "PRIOR ART." Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement. As indicated in the Specification at page 4, lines 18 to 19, Figure 6 shows a system structure of an embodiment of the present invention. Furthermore, the description of Figure 6, found at pages 4 to 12 of the Specification, is believed to be directed to novel matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the requirement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In addition, Claims 1 to 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly reciting a use without process steps. Further, Claims 1 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With respect to the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claim 1, the Office Action states that last wherein clause is unclear since it does not recite a step by which an address phase of a next transaction can be issued before the data phase is completed. This statement is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that this goes to breadth and not to indefiniteness. See MPEP § 2173.04. The meaning of the terminology used in the last

wherein clause of Claim 1 is believed to be clear to one skilled in the art in light of the specification.

Applicants submit that the other issues raised in the § 112, second paragraph, and § 101 rejections have been attended to by the amendments made herein. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,243,770 (Houg). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over alleged Admitted Prior Art in further view of Houg. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 defines a bus control method for a bus, which is provided with a switch having a plurality of master ports for connecting a plurality of masters and a plurality of slave ports for connecting a plurality of slaves, wherein the switch can connect each of the plurality of masters to an arbitrary one of the plurality of slaves. The method comprises an address phase in which a master initiates a transaction with a switch request for connecting with a slave, the switch establishes a connection between the master and the slave, and the master issues an address and a command, and a data phase in which the slave issues a switch request for connecting with the master, the switch establishes a connection between the slave and the master independent from the connection made in the address phase, and the slave issues read return data, the data phase being separated from the address phase. Before the data phase is completed, an address phase of a next transaction can be issued.

Independent Claim 5 defines a bus system comprising a plurality of masters, a plurality of slaves, and a bus that is provided with a switch. The switch can connect each of the plurality of masters and an arbitrary one of the plurality of slaves in an address phase and in a data phase. In the address phase, a master initiates a transaction with a switch request for connecting with a slave, the switch establishes a connection between the master and the slave, and the master issues an address and a command. In the data phase, the slave issues a switch request for connecting with the master, the switch establishes a connection between the slave and the master independent from the connection made in the address phase, and the slave issues read return data, the data phase being separated from the address phase. Before the data phase is completed, an address phase of a next transaction can be issued.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 5, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a data phase in which a switch establishes a connection between a slave and a master independent from a connection made in an address phase.

Houg is directed to a method for using first-in, first-out (FIFO) buffers in a pipelined bus. While Houg discloses that a pipelined bus architecture allows address phases to be made prior to completion of subsequent phases (column 1, lines 38 to 41 of Houg), Houg's pipelined bus is not seen to disclose or to suggest a data phase in which a switch establishes a connection between a slave and a master independent from a connection made in an address phase. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 5 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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